

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-02 CPR-01 EB-08
LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----131359Z 054152 /50

O 131220Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3955

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONSUL GENOA

AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT, US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FLORENCE MAYOR ELIO GABBUGGIANI TO THE US

SUMMARY. ELIO GABBUGGIANI, MAYOR OF FLORENCE AND MEMBER OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, DEPARTS APRIL 13 WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE CITY OF FLORENCE FOR AN EIGHT-DAY TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES DURING WHICH HE WILL VISIT WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK AND PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING OF THE RENAISSANCE CENTER IN DETROIT AT THE INVITATION OF DETROIT MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG. THE TRIP HAS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, PARTICULARLY IN PCI DAILY L'UNITA WHICH PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH GABBUGGIANI ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE AND A FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE ON APRIL 13 THAT EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE VISIT AND QUOTED LIBERALLY FROM AN APRIL 12 ARTICLE IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR INDICATING GREAT INTEREST IN THE GABBUGGIANI TRIP ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. ELIO GABBUGGIANI, THE MAYOR OF FLORENCE AND A MEMBER
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OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PCI, DEPARTS APRIL 13 WITH A DELEGATION OF FLORENTINE OFFICIALS FOR AN EIGHT-DAY TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. THE DELEGATION, WHICH INCLUDES DEPUTY MAYOR OTTAVIANO COLZI (SOCIALIST) AND CITY COUNCILMAN SERGIO BRIANI (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT), WILL VISIT WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK AS WELL AS PARTICIPATE IN THE OPENING OF THE DETROIT

RENAISSANCE CENTER AT THE INVITATION OF DETROIT MAYOR COLEMAN YOUNG. THE VISIT HAS RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT COVERAGE IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, PARTICULARLY IN THE PCI DAILY L'UNITA, WHICH PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH GABBUGGIANI ON THE EVE OF THE DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE. IN THE INTERVIEW GABBUGGIANI NOTED THAT HIS VISIT WAS VIEWED WITH GREAT INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE VISIT WOULD "CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF RECIPROCAL KNOWLEDGE, DISCUSSION, AND COLLABORATION" AND ADDED THAT HE WISHED TO CORRECT AMERICAN VIEWS OF "THE ITALIAN REALITY, ITS PROBLEMS AND ITS PROSPECTS." HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE A NUMBER OF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, SPEAK TO ECONOMISTS AND STUDENTS OF POLITICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN ANN ARBOR, AND THAT THE DELEGATION WILL BE RECEIVED BY UN SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK.

2. A FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE IN L'UNITA ON APRIL 13 EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE GABBUGGIANI VISIT, QUOTING LIBERALLY FROM AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ON APRIL 12. L'UNITA NOTED THAT THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR CALLED THE VISIT "A FURTHER STEP IN THE PATIENT AND PERSISTENT EFFORTS OF THE PCI TO SHOW THAT IT IS DIFFERENT, IS FRIENDLY TOWARD AMERICA, AND CAN ONE DAY BECOME A TRUSTWORTHY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT." THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ALSO NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO AMERICAN OBSERVERS "FLORENCE, UNDER GABBUGGIANI, CELEBRATED THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL WITH MORE ENTHUSIASM THAT

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MANY AMERICAN CITIES." L'UNITA WENT ON TO STATE THAT GABBUGGIANI PLANS TO MEET WITH UAW CHIEF LEONARD WOODCOCK WHILE IN DETROIT.

3. CENTRIST NEWSPAPERS LA NAZIONE AND IL GIORNALE ALSO COVERED GABBUGGIANI'S DEPARTURE EXTENSIVELY. THE LATTER NOTED GABBUGGIANI'S STATEMENTS IN FAVOR ON CONTINUED ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO TO "MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER" BUT WARNED THAT THE VISIT IS ESSENTIALLY A PCI EXERCISE IN PUBLIC RELATIONS AND THAT GABBUGGIANI DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE PARTY LINE. PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER LUCIO LOMBARDO RADICE'S STATEMENT THAT THE PCI WOULD NOT GO TO WAR AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND A RECENT ANTI-AMERICAN SPEECH BY PCI SENATOR ARMANDO COSSUTTA, ANOTHER CC MEMBER, WERE CITED BY IL GIORNALE AS EVIDENCE THAT THE PCI IS NOT AS FRIENDLY TOWARD THE US OR AS INDEPENDENT OF MOSCOW AS GABBUGGIANI WOULD HAVE THE AMERICANS BELIEVE.

4. COMMENT. IN HIS LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE TO MAYOR YOUNG, WHICH WAS EXCEPTED IN L'UNITA ON MARCH 24, GANNUGGIANI NOTED THAT THE VISIT WOULD "REPRESENT FOR US A MOMENT OF GREAT POLITICAL VALUE" AND, DESPITE ASSURANCES TO THE CONTRARY, HE HAS WORKED HARD TO SQUEEZE AS MUCH POLITICAL CAPITAL AS POSSIBLE OUT OF THE TRIP. HE HAS SUCCEEDED TO THE POINT THAT ALL SECTIONS OF THE PRESS NOW REFER TO THE TRIP AS THE "GABBUGGIANI VISIT" AND THE MULTIPARTY NATURE OF THE DELEGATION IS TOTALLY NEGLECTED. GIVEN INCREASINGLY POLITICAL CAST BEING ATTRIBUTED TO THE GABBUGGIANI VISIT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE MAOY TO BE RECIEVED BY ANYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Subject: VISIT OF FLORENCE MAYOR ELIO GABBUGGIANI TO THE US SUMMARY. ELIO GABBUGGIANI, MAYOR OF FLORENCE AND MEMBER OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE, DEPARTS APR IL 13 WITH A
TAGS: PINT, IT, US, (GABBUGGIANI, ELIO)
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